



MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, Jackie Gonzalez

Tel: 305-673-7000 ext. 6291, Fax: 305-673-7725, E-mail: jackiegonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Exploring Nature from a Whole New Perspective

Miami Beach, FL – On Friday, January 22, 2010, the Scott Rakow Youth Center afterschool members and the North Shore Park Youth Center Nature Club took part in a nature walk and craft project held at the North Shore Open Space Park put on by the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department - Greenspace Management Division.

The children were given a nature workbook to complete while participating in the program. They learned important facts on native plants, animal habitats and tracking techniques. They also took a guided tour throughout the park and discovered plants, animals and insects in their natural habitat. They were taught about tree rings and how each ring signifies one year of life. The stems, the branches and the trunk get wider each year adding a new ring as a layer. They created their own souvenir, a "Tree Cookie" (slice of tree) necklace, as they enjoyed an unforgettable experience with their peers. Finally, each participant received a certificate of completion.

This event was planned and inspired by the National & State Junior Ranger Programs (National Parks offer visitors the opportunity to join the National Park Service Family as Junior Rangers). The Parks and Recreation Department is constantly striving to develop new and exciting programs for our youth, to get out and play while enjoying the beauty of our natural surroundings.

Look for future events and other Miami Beach Parks and Recreation programming in your Recreation Review, call our offices at 305-673-7730 or visit our website at www.miamibeachparks.com.

###

To request this material in accessible format, sign language interpreters, information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceeding, please contact 305-604-2489 (voice) or 305-673-7218 (TTY) five days in advance to initiate your request.